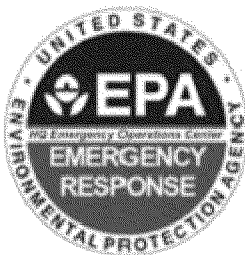


From: Eoc, Epahq
Sent: Mon 2/3/2014 9:04:13 PM
Subject: Chemical Spill, Charleston, WV- update #26

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EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV - Update #26

US Environmental Protection Agency

Report as of 1800 February 3, 2014

Overview: On January 10, 2014 the President approved an Emergency Declaration for the State of West Virginia after a chemical, 4-methylcyclohexanemethanol, (MCHM) leaked at a Freedom Industries chemical plant and into the Elk River in Charleston, WV. The spill occurred near the Kanawha Valley Water Treatment Plant which detected the chemical even after an increased carbon treatment effort was put in place. Freedom Industries is working to clean up the spill at the facility and in the river.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: West Virginia water authorities issued a "Do Not Use Water Notice" for 10 counties and the President's Emergency Declaration covers eight counties. West Virginia American Water Company (WVAWC) customers were told not to use tap water for drinking, cooking, washing, or bathing. Water could be used for toilets and fire emergencies. When the incident originally occurred, it contaminated drinking water for 300,000 people. The emergency declaration was closed on January 20, 2014.

The facility is deepening the intercept trench by the river and installing a water collection system. The section of the trench adjacent to the river slope was excavated to native soil. Region III OSC reported that the facility continues to manage surface and ground water seeping from the Site. A large amount of water has been pumped the past day (more than 100,000 gallons). The excess water has been due to steady rainfall combined with ice melt caused by warmer weather.

During the 1/29 excavation a pipe was inadvertently broken. The pipe, approximately 8 inches in diameter, was discharging water at a rate of approximately 1/4 gal/min and had a slight odor of MCHM. The pipe appears to be an intake line from the river for a former fire suppression system. WVDEP, EPA, the facility and the plaintiff's expert are collecting water samples for analysis. Pumping operations on the trench will continue to prevent flow into the River.

CEC collected samples from the end of the pipe, with EPA and the plaintiff representative receiving split samples. A camera was run into the downhill and uphill portions of the pipe and it was discovered that the pipe stops on both sides of the trench. CEC will submit a design for lining the northern end of the intercept trench. A previous proposal to place concrete in the trench was time and cost prohibitive. CEC also will submit a plan to hand dig a sump around the debris that is blocking the uphill section of excavated pipe.

Boom maintenance continues with the warming weather. Once river ice is removed, additional boom will be placed around the inlet of the excavated pipe, which is suspected to be part of a former fire suppression system. The booms deployed around the impacted shoreline of the facility were ripped free at approximately 6:00 AM on February 3, 2014. The ice flow and high water flowing down the Elk River caused the release of the booms. The booms were contained and tied off on the southern end of the shoreline. Work is ongoing to redeploy booms around the impacted shoreline.

The facility's remediation consultant, CEC, completed developing the monitoring wells for groundwater sampling. The monitor wells are scheduled for sampling February 4 through February 5. CEC also will submit to WVDEP a design for lining the northern end of the interceptor trench.

OSHA was onsite monitoring work safety.

EPA Action:

The local media reported that a Marshall University professor found formaldehyde in a drinking water sample from a restaurant in Charleston, WV. EPA continues to leave messages for the Marshall University professor who reported formaldehyde in a drinking water sample from a restaurant in Charleston, WV but has received no response to date. EPA's Ft. Meade lab is also investigating the formaldehyde issue.

EPA Region 3 Drinking Water Branch and EPA Water Security staff held a conference call January 31 with representatives from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, the West Virginia American Water Co., and American Water Corporate. The participants discussed water treatment, disinfection byproducts, sampling, and monitoring of the water treatment plant affected by the Freedom Industries chemical spill.

EPA will be shipping two samples to the Region 3 lab in Fort Meade today. One sample is water from the excavated pipe in the interceptor trench and the other sample is from a seep on the

impacted slope.

Media Interest: Medium

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/195404-senate-to-hold-hearings-on-wva-chemical-spill>

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/energy/house-dems-press-for-hearing-on-west-virginia-chemical-spill-20140113>

The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed.

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